Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 and 2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A distributed system according to claim ~~1~~ 15, wherein the detection unit is configured to detect ~~detects~~ the devices located ~~in~~ at the site ~~where the service can be provided~~ by acquiring information on the devices extracted by the extraction unit.

4-14. (Canceled)

15 (New) A distributed system in which a plurality of devices are coupled to each other through a network, comprising:

a storage unit;

a processing unit; and

a communication unit;

wherein the storage unit is configured to store a service scenario and a context, wherein the service scenario describes functions necessary to provide a service and relationships between the functions, and the context serves as a criterion for selecting one or more devices to be used in providing the service,

wherein the processing unit comprises:

an extraction unit being configured to extract the devices necessary for performing the service based on the service scenario;

a detection unit being configured to detect available devices located at a site wherein the service can be provided in response to a request from a user according to the context;

a creation unit being configured to create correspondence information on linkage between the detected devices, the correspondence information including function information, device information, process information, and data destination information; and

a service execution unit being configured to execute the request by linking the detected devices based on the correspondence information,

wherein, in response to a context change while the request is being executed, the detection unit redetects available devices according to the changed context, the creation unit rewrites correspondence information on linkage between the redetected devices, and the service execution unit allocates data destination with reference to the correspondence information while transmitting data.

16. (New) A distributed system according to claim 15, wherein the extraction unit extracts the devices by inquiring a server holding a database that stores attribute information of the devices, and the extraction units further selects devices necessary for the service by exchanging information between the devices having a function described in the service scenario.

17. (New) A distributed system according to claim 15, wherein in response to a situation change of the devices located at the site during the service execution, the detection unit redetects the devices.

18. (New) A distributed system according to claim 15, wherein the creation unit creates the correspondence information for each user requesting a service, and allocates functions from a single device to different users according to the services provided to the users, and releases the functions allocated to each user when the service to the user is completed.

19. (New) A brokering method using a context in a distributed system in which a plurality of devices are coupled to each other through a network, the method comprising:

preparing a service scenario and a context, wherein the service scenario describes functions necessary to provide a service and relationships between the functions, and the context serves as a criterion for selecting the devices to be used in providing the service;

extracting the devices necessary to provide the service based on the service scenario;

detecting the devices located at a site wherein the service can be provided to a user according to the context;

creating correspondence information on linkage between the detected devices, the correspondence information including function information, device information, process information, and data destination information; and

executing the service by linking the devices detected based on the correspondence information,

wherein, in response to a context change while the service is being executed, the distributed system redetects a device according to the changed context in the detecting step, rewrites the correspondence information for linking the redetected devices in the creating step, and allocates data destination with reference to the correspondence information while transmitting data in the executing step.

20. (New) A brokering method using a context according to claim 19, wherein the extracting step includes:

extracting the device by querying a server holding a database that stores attribute information of the devices; and

selecting devices necessary for the service by exchanging information between the devices having a function described in the service scenario.

21. (New) A brokering method using a context according to claim 19, wherein the detection step further comprises:

detecting the devices located at the site wherein the service can be provided by acquiring device information extracted in the extracting step.

22. (New) A brokering method using a context according to claim 19, wherein the detecting step further comprises:

redetecting the devices in response to a situation change of the devices during the service execution.

23. (New) A brokering method using a context according to claim 19, wherein the creating step further comprises:

creating the correspondence information for each user requesting a service; and

allocating functions from a single device to different users according to the services provided to the users, and releasing the functions allocated to each user when the service to the user is completed.